

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2007. Newly-added 13 to 20 are pending in the application, of which Claims 13 and 17 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 to 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/008039 (Sugiura). Claims 2, 5, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sugiura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,145,947 (Inora). Claims 1 to 12 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections.

Newly added independent Claim 13 is directed to a print data generation apparatus. The print data generation apparatus comprises a reception unit, configured to receive non-ejection information of a print head from a printer; a generation unit, configured to generate print data for perform printing without a non-ejection nozzle, that is a nozzle that cannot eject ink droplet because of some reason, such as a jam or circuit failure, based upon the non-ejection information received by said reception unit, and a transmission unit, configured to transmit the print data generated by said generation unit to the printer. Therefore, a printer in accordance with Claim 13 prints the image data without using a non-ejection nozzle as the print generation apparatus has taken the non-ejection nozzle into account when generating the print data. This allows a defect of a printed image caused by the non-ejection nozzle to be eliminated.

In contrast, Sugiura discloses a print control method in which a computer transmits print data to a printer through a printer server. The printer that receives the print data performs the printing. The computer generates the print data to send the data to the printer. However, Sugiura fails to disclose or suggest either a reception unit, configured to receive non-ejection information of a print head from a printer or a generation unit, configured to generate print data for perform printing without a non-ejection nozzle based upon the non-ejection information received by said reception unit. That is, the computer merely generates print data without any regard to the non-ejection status of a jet.

Furthermore, Inora discloses an apparatus that gets an ink consumption amount from an ink-jet printer and then displays the ink consumption amount. The apparatus counts effective blocks including data indicating at least one ejection nozzle to estimate the ink consumption amount. However, Inora fails to disclose or suggest either a reception unit, configured to receive non-ejection information of a print head from a printer, or a generation unit, configured to generate print data for perform printing without a non-ejection nozzle based upon the non-ejection information received by said reception unit.

In light of the deficiencies of Sugiura and Inora as discussed above, Applicant submits that independent Claim 13 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claim 17 is directed to a method substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is also in condition for allowance.

The other pending claims in this application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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